CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for providing a trusted boot source in a computer system, the computer system including a partition and an operating system, the partition being nonviewable from the operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   allowing a plurality of sub-partitions to be defined in the partition, the plurality of sub-partitions corresponding to a plurality of boot sources; and

(b)   allowing a password to be provided for each of the plurality of sub-partitions, the password being required for a user to utilize a corresponding sub-partition as a boot source.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(c)   allowing a user to boot from a sub-partition of the plurality sub-partitions if the user provides the password for the sub-partition.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the partition is stored in a hardfile of the computer system.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein an identity of each of the plurality of sub-partitions and the password for each sub-partition is stored in the hardfile.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the partition is lockable from the operating

system.

6.   A computer system comprising:

an operating system;

a partition including a plurality of sub-partitions, the partition being nonviewable

from the operating system, the plurality of sub-partitions corresponding to a plurality of boot

sources; and

a password for each of the plurality of sub-partitions, the password being required for

a user to utilize a corresponding sub-partition as a boot source.

7.   The computer system of claim 6 wherein a user is allowed to boot from a sub-

partition of the plurality sub-partitions if the user provides the password for the sub-

partition.

8.   The computer system of claim 6 wherein the computer system further

includes a hardfile and wherein the partition is stored in the hardfile.

9.   The computer system of claim 8 wherein an identity of each of the plurality

of sub-partitions and the password for each sub-partition is stored in the hardfile.

10.   The computer system of claim 6 wherein the partition is lockable from the

operating system.